

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 COME-00 DRC-01 /117 W

----- 116887

R 301703Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2470

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 3678

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, CO

SUBJECT: POST-ELECTION ROUNDUP

USCINCSO FOR J-2

1. VOTE COUNTING THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA IS PROCEEDING VERY SLOWLY. ON SUNDAY APRIL 28 THE OFFICIAL RECOUNT BEGAN FOR LOCAL OFFICES. ON MAY 5 THE RECOUNT WILL START FOR NATIONAL OFFICES: THE PROCESS WILL PROBABLY TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS AND WE EXPECT MANY CHALLENGES TO BE RAISED THAT WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY THE ELECTORAL COURT.

2. NATIONAL EUPHORIA OVER THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF THE ELECTIONS WAS SHATTERED ON APRIL 26? THE LIBERAL BOSS OF CAUCA DEPARTMENT, VICTOR MOSQUERA CHAUX, NARROWLY MISSED DEATH WHEN A BOMB EXPLODED IN HIS CAR. A BYSTANDER WAS KILLED. NO LEADS HAVE YET TURNED UP, BUT WE SUSPECT THE PERPETRATOR WILL TURN OUT TO BE A DISGRUNTLED LIBERAL WHO BLAMES MOSQUERA FOR EXCLUDING HIM FROM PARTY LISTS.

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3. PRESIDENT-ELECT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN ENTERED INTO

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY ON APRIL 25, WHEN HE MET WITH FORMER PRESIDENT MARIANO OSPINA AND THE HEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY. ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES, AND TO LOPEZ HIMSELF, THE DISCUSSION DID NOT CENTER AROUND APPOINTMENTS, BUT REMAINED RATHER ON THE CONCEPTUAL LEVEL. ANOTHER MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK. LOPEZ HAS ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT PASTRANA ABOUT SETTING UP A LIAISON. LOPEZ WAS RUMORED TO HAVE MADE PLANS FOR A TRIP TO THE U.S. AND EUROPE, BUT HE TOLD REPORTERS ON APRIL 28 THAT HE HAS TO START NOW TO PUT TOGETHER A TEAM TO PREPARE POSITION PAPERS AND DRAFT LEGISLATION; HE SAID HE MAY HAVE TO REMAIN IN COUNTRY TO SUPERVISE THE PROCESS.

5. WE REPORTED IN BOGOTA 3541 THA THE NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRAR, GERARDO AYERBE CHAUX, HAD RESIGNED IN ANGER OVER A CRITICAL STATEMENT BY LOPEZ. THE ELECTORAL COURT HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT AYERBE'S RESIGNATION.

VAKY

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Message Attributes

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